

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



Simone de Beauvoir Institute

August 14, 1987

Dr. C.L. Bertrand
Dean
Faculty of Arts & Science
AD-324.

Dear Dr. Bertrand,

SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR INSTITUTE
AND WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAMS
January 1986-June 1988 1?

Attached please find our eighteen month report. We did not submit an annual report last year since I had been principal only for a period of six months. Therefore, the present report covers the period between January 1986 and June 1987.

We do hope this meets your needs as per your June 26, 1987 memo.

Sincerely,

Arpi Hamalian
Principal
Simone de Beauvoir Institute
and Women's Studies Programmes

Encls.

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SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR INSTITUTE
AND WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAMS
January 1986-June 1987

ANNUAL REPORTS

The Institute used to publish detailed annual reports. We are preparing an eighteen month report illustrating the work of the Institute to continue this tradition and to provide a reference book for interested individuals and groups who write to us on a daily basis for information about our activities. However, our typewriters are falling apart, we do not have word processors and our xeroxing machine is overworked. We furthermore do not have an adequate budget to cover the expenses. Once these questions are resolved we shall produce a real annual report.

THE PRINCIPAL

I was appointed Principal of the Institute as of January 1986 for a three year term with the understanding that I shall be able to serve only two and a half years of this term-until May 1988. (I shall be going on sabbatical leave as of June 1st, 1988). We shall therefore consider the establishment of a search committee soon.

The Institute was under trusteeship when I was appointed. The trusteeship was lifted with my appointment. The Search Committee did not inform me that a consultant, Mr. G. Haines, was conducting a long term project with the faculty and members of the Institute in trying to resolve some of the internal problems. I was also not informed that the same long term process was begun with the staff of the Institute on a separate contract basis by the same person. Neither the Trustee, Dr. Gail Valaskakis, nor the Dean or the Vice-Rector Academic mentioned these facts to me during my appointment interviews or in their letters of appointment. Mrs. E. Gardham and Mr. G. Haines advised me of this situation during my first week as Principal. Therefore the first task was to resolve this situation. The Council of the Institute finally voted not to continue this process. The staff abandoned the process they had started. We then engaged in a long process of "healing" by concentrating on daily business and activities.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

The academic programmes of the Institute are being offered on the same basis as I found them upon arrival at the Institute. We have discussed several alternatives for better organizing our course offerings to make use of more full-time and permanent resources and to develop a more permanent core curriculum. We shall complete this reorganization during 1987-88.

A dossier for an M.A. programme in Women's Studies is at its final stage of preparation. This should be circulated early in 1987-88 for submission to the appropriate committees inside and outside the University.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Several research groups are developing. We have already two research centres that are active: Centre For Feminist Studies on Peace/Centre d'études féministes sur la paix and Centre de recherche et d'enseignement sur la francophonie des femmes.

We also have a strong research interest in the area of WOMEN AND WORK. The adjunct fellows have been working on this theme for a few years now. We have been lucky in attracting well known scholars over the past year and a half as adjunct fellows. We are receiving many inquiries from scholars interested in becoming adjunct fellows of the Institute.

Our own fellows have attracted funding from outside sources and are applying for more. The adjunct fellows have brought in a considerable amount of research money with them for their work at the Institute.

Four of our fellows published books over the past year and a half. We have started a working paper series. We are looking for funding for this series until the money generated from sales makes it self-sufficient.

The Newsletter/Bulletin continues to be published. We shall arrange for a more professional look and content during 1987-88.

A weekly newsletter from the desk of the Principal goes out to our members every Monday morning during the academic year.

FELLOWS

We continue to attract many professors (male and female) as fellows of the Institute. They continue to work mainly on a "volunteer" basis. We are trying to get recognition for the heavy burden carried by some of the fellows. We hope to accomplish this in 1987-88 for the next academic year. We have a strong representation from professional employees.

STUDENTS

We have a number of very good students who have qualified for scholarships and bursaries. We continue attracting a good number of new students. Enrollments in the courses keep growing.

We have not had much time to devote to new student recruitment given the different matters to be attended to and to be settled in a period following a Trusteeship situation. We expect to make some special efforts in this direction during 1987-88.

We keep on receiving enquiries about graduate programmes in Women's Studies at the M.A. and Ph.D. levels. We get at least one call each day about these programmes.

Our graduates are being accepted in high quality graduate programmes (many in quota programmes) for graduate work. Those who choose to work are finding very interesting jobs.(a limited sample is attached).

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The co-curricular activities organized by the Institute have concentrated on academic interests and research orientations of the members of the Institute. All of our events have been attended to full capacity (with the exception of two seminars). Several times we had to turn away a good number of people due to fire regulations of the halls where the lecture/activity was taking place.

We have organized several activities and events to meet the community outreach mandate of the Institute. (Meetings and workshops organized with government groups from different ministries, international organizations and community organizations).

We have started eliciting positive responses to our collaboration requests from the different departments of the university. This has been an interesting development.

As a Women's Center, we have provided meeting grounds, rooms and resource persons to several groups inside and outside the University. Our Lounge is constantly booked for activities of this kind outside the hours where we use it for classes and Institute meetings.

THE COUNSELLOR

Ms. Jane Gellert has been seconded to the Institute from the Guidance Services of the University. This has facilitated our role as a Women's Center. However, we need more resources in this area.

DOCUMENTATION CENTER AND READING ROOM

This is a very important resource center for our members but it is becoming more and more important as a resource center for the community at large (Women's groups and journalists are using it quite heavily). If the same level of activity continues this year we should try to redefine the range of our services and plan accordingly our budget and rules of operation. The efforts of our documentalist Joan Kohner should be recognized. Hers is a labour of love - we should revise the budget for this position.

We have received very good coverage in several library publications and publications about community feminist resource centers (both American and Canadian). Several universities have contacted us for guidance in establishing similar centres.

LEADERSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE

The leadership role of the Institute was "reclaimed" after the trusteeship period. We have been consulted on the establishment of other similar institutes and centres. Our academic programmes are being used as models in several Canadian universities and in many countries outside of Canada.

We continue receiving delegations and visitors from other provinces and countries on a steady basis, at least twice a week. Some weeks several groups come in and out of the Insitute on a daily basis.

FUNDING AND PHYSICAL PLANT FACILITIES

Both have deteriorated badly. A re-examination of the needs of the Institute is imperative. The Physical facilities, the furniture (or lack of it) and the conditions of work are the worst compared to the other Institutes and Colleges at Concordia. In our S.G.W. annex we cannot meet minimum health and safety requirements.

STAFF

We have been very fortunate in having staff members who are personally interested in several areas of the Institute activities. In addition to providing support to our programmes on a daily basis they have each initiated programmes and activities that have attracted publicity and recognition to the Institute in the national media.

Unfortunately illness has been too frequent, incapacitating staff members over long periods during 1987. We hope this situation will be remedied in the not too distant future.

WOMEN'S CENTER

A group of women think that there is a need for a university wide Concordia Women's Center. The mandate of the Institute was to serve as a Women's Centre. We are in touch with the activities of the newly established Concordia Women's Center and with their members. Original contacts for incorporating their operations under the Institute have not progressed much. Lack of policy guidelines from the higher administration, unclear funding sources and accountability structures, and gender exclusive clauses in their programme are examples of some of the hurdles. We shall continue to cooperate with all women's groups on campus. However we deplore the scattering of financial and human resources.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership categories are being redefined in the rewriting of the Constitution of the Institute.

IN CONCLUSION

The Institute continues to prosper in number of fellows, student members, academic, research and co-curricular activities and is successful in maintaining a bilingual milieu. The Institute enjoys a very good reputation and a high profile outside the University on the local, national and international scene. "You are a beacon light for the rest of us across Canada" writes M. Fulton who received an honorary degree from Concordia this year. We shall conclude our short report on this note.

For the Newsletter

News of some of our members, past and present:

We like to keep in touch, and it is always interesting to hear what people have been up to. We have no system for keeping track, so what follows is a random selection. Everyone who reads the Newsletter will probably know of other items that should have been included -- Good, so sit down and let us know what you know, and what you've been doing.

Mona McLean has a permanent fulltime job in charge of printing services at Trinity College, University of Toronto.

Susan Shea has been awarded an FCAR Fellowship, and is entering the Special Individual MA Programme to work on feminist ethics.

Veronique Verthuy is a researcher at the CBC (Listen to "Daybreak" on Fridays and you will hear her name among the credits!)

Michelle Vigeant has been accepted into the doctoral programme in Educational Technology at the University of Montreal.

Reggie Russell has successfully completed her first year in Law at UQAM.

Kathy Silver is entering the MA programme in Educational Studies, with a specialization in Adult Education.

Joan Carmichael is entering the same programme, but specializing in Social Behavioral Foundations (and specifically,

women and computers).

Catherine Kellogg is working in Toronto with the Canadian Women's Movement Archives.

Margaret Kamester (formerly Parkin) is working as Jo Vellacott's research assistant, coedited a recent book with her, and also continues her work at the Lachine library.

Stella Gaon is planning to complete her MA in the Special Individual Programme, working on some philosophical aspects of feminist theory next year, and she is also a research assistant for Jo.

Melissa Caplan is entering the MA programme in English literature at Queen's, and will be working on ageing in Margaret Lawrence's Stone Angel.

Jeanne Corrigan is taking a year off from school and is working in her home province of Saskatchewan.

Linda Cormier has been awarded an FCAR Fellowship to complete her work in Montreal women's oral history, for her MA in the Special Individual Programme.

Janet Wiegand is entering the Master of Social Work Programme at McGill.

Viki Monkman is working on Child Sexual Abuse for the federal government in Ottawa.

ISOBEL BLISS will start studies in Economics after she graduates from the Institute this Fall

JOSEE LECLERC will enter the M.A. programme in Art Therapy at Concordia.

JEANNE MARANDA is working with MEDIAWATCH as their editor and co-ordinator of their activities.

GRACE ROSTIG is working in Tunisia with women's groups and is conducting feminist research.

List of Fellows - Simone de Beauvoir Institute

K. Anand, Department of Mathematics
I. Devine, Management Department
L. Dyer, Management Department
N. Doray, Dean of Students Office
B. Friewald, English Department
J. Gelert, Guidance Services
E. Henrik, Department of Psychology
A. Kerby, Dean of Students Office
J. Levitin, Department of Cinema and Photography
P. L'Hérecault, Département d'études françaises
F. Ligier, Département d'études françaises
K. Martindale, English Department
P. Morley, English Department
J. Sen, Management Department
S. Simon, Département d'études françaises
J. Vellacott, Simone de Beauvoir Institute
M. Verthuy, Département d'études françaises
T. Waugh, Department of Cinema and Photography
L. Lequin, Département d'études françaises